



NEWS RELEASE

United States Senate Committee on Small Business *Olympia J. Snowe, Chair*

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SNOWE RESOLUTION HONORING SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS PASSES SENATE

Snowe Notes Importance of SBDCs to Job Growth in United States

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME), Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, today announced that a Senate resolution honoring the Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Centers for their 25 years of service to America's entrepreneurs passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent.

"Small Business Development Centers are a critical component to strengthening our nation's economy and creating American jobs," said Senator Snowe. "They clearly deserve our praise and recognition."

"In 2004 alone, the SBDC's in my home state of Maine assisted entrepreneurs in obtaining over \$16 million in loans, helped create and retain over 700 jobs, counseled nearly 3,000 clients and held nearly 200 training events," continued Senator Snowe. "Just as there's no question that small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, Small Business Development Centers are truly the lifeline for entrepreneurs."

Senator Snowe noted that the SBDC's counseled and trained more than 50,000 business owners and entrepreneurs in 1980. Today, they counsel and train 750,000 business owners and entrepreneurs helping to create and retain over 160,000 U.S. jobs.

"It is essential that we ensure every American has the necessary resources to start, grow and develop a business," stated Senator Snowe. "I will continue my work to secure the necessary appropriations for the SBA and SBDCs."

The resolution was co-sponsored by Senator George Allen, Senator Evan Bayh, Senator Christopher S. Bond, Senator Conrad Burns, Senator Norm Coleman, Senator Johnny Isakson, Senator John F. Kerry, Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, Senator Mark L. Pryor and Senator David Vitter.

The SBDC program was established in 1980 to deliver management and technical counseling assistance and educational programs to prospective and existing small business owners. There are over 1,100 service locations across the United States as well as, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. Since its inception, the SBDCs have served over eleven million clients with counseling for new business starts, sustainability programs for struggling firms and expansion plans for growing businesses.

The resolution, S.Res.165, is attached.

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